(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when these cards are likely to be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) proposal has been received from Central Railway for implementation of a scheme of issuing smart card which will be valid for travel in suburban trains as well as Bombay Electric and State Transport (BEST) buses in Mumbai area. The proposal is at preliminary stage of examination.

Development of Nilgiri Mountain Railway

1934. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal has been formulated to invite private companies to develop certain stretches of the areas, owned by the Railways, surrounding the Nilgiri Mountain Railway, which is one of the oldest mountain railways in the country and was declared a world heritage site last year, for business ventures of tourist interest; and

(b) if so, the details of the project, including interest shown by various private companies as reported as the present status of its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) There is no proposal on Railway to invite private companies to develop certain stretches of the area owned by the Railways surrounding the Nilgiri Mountain Railway.

(b) Does not arise.

Gauge conversion in North Frontier Railway

1935. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for slow progress of works on gauge conversion of rail line from Fakiragram to Dhubri and New Moinaguri to Jogighopa new rail line construction under New Bongaigaon to New Jalpaiguri sector of North Frontier Railway;